



Sustainability Opportunities



Here are your **August 2013 Sustainability Opportunities** at the Johnson Space Center and in the greater Houston area. Please participate, and contact JSC-Sustainability@mail.nasa.gov with additional opportunities.

Within this notification:

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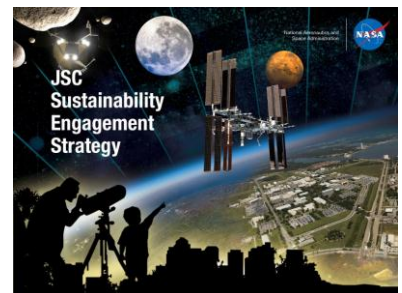
A Look Back before we Look Ahead...

- Do you know what “sustainability” (or “green”) actually means? Find out more at the [JSC Sustainability webpage](#).

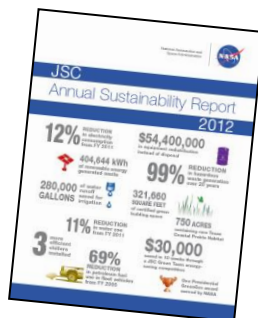


- In our JSC Sustainability model, there are 6 natural resources we’re trying to protect while meeting our mission objectives here at JSC.

- Our [JSC Sustainability Engagement Strategy’s](#) primary objective is to help our JSC employees understand that, discover additional ways to be more sustainable, and get involved in one of the 4 JSC Sustainability Teams.



- Our [JSC Annual Sustainability Report](#) details how we’re doing meeting the Executive Order 13514 requirements.



- **August 1st**, the [JSC Green Team](#) kicked off our 2013 site-wide [Energy Conservation Competition](#). Each building occupant is asked to do everything you can to save energy between now and October 11th. The savings will be reported biweekly by building, and the winning building will be announced just in time for Halloween. Read all the [rules here](#).





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Sustainability Opportunities this month

Please consider attending/supporting any or all of these events, and let us know if you'd like more information. (Red font = JSC event)

- Aug 1st – Sept 6th: Registration is open for three different Texas Gulf Coast Gardener Classes
 - TGCG will give participants the knowledge and skills needed to start, develop and maintain their own gardens through a variety of gardening and horticulture topics specifically designed for the pleasures and challenges of the Texas Gulf Coast climate. The 12-week curriculum includes exciting lessons and lectures presented by Mercer staff and horticulture/botany experts from the greater-Houston area, plus hands-on learning activities.
 - For more information, visit www.themercersociety.org.
- Aug 2nd – JSC Flex Friday
 - Take the survey!! <https://secure.inquisiteasp.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=N7P88R&rk=5ZCB8Y>
- Aug 5th – Oct 4th – Know of a Great Environmental Project?
 - The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is accepting applications and nominations for the 21st Annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA), the highest environmental honor in the state.
 - If you or anyone within your organization has a project that they would like to nominate please let us know. The Environmental Office will be happy to assist to with the application process. Please contact Alan Amor (ext. 33416), Aaron Bridger (ext. 35254), or Christal Banks (ext. 34993) with your nominations.
- Aug 9th – Katy Prairie Conservancy Wild West Tour: Breeding Birds
 - Beat the heat this summer and join bird expert, Glenn Olsen, for a twilight tour of the Katy Prairie Conservancy. Visit wetlands, woods, and wild grasslands in search of breeding birds and feathery fledglings. A light dinner will be included with this special trip onto KPC preserves.
 - 6:00-9:00 PM
 - <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/>
- Aug 12th or 21st – Mercer Arboretum New Volunteer Open House
 - 8:30 AM-Noon



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- Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble, TX 77338
 - Reserve your place by calling 281-443-8731
- Aug 11-12th – Katy Prairie Conservancy Unplugged Adventure: Falling Stars
 - Families and individuals are welcomed to spread a blanket on the Matt Cook Wildlife Viewing platform for what promises (weather permitting) to be a fantastic meteor shower. The Perseids are considered by many people to be the year's best shower, and often peak at 50 or more meteors per hour in a dark sky. The Perseids tend to strengthen in number as late night deepens into midnight, and typically produce the most meteors in the wee hours before dawn.
 - 7:00-9:00 PM at Warren Lake
 - <http://www.cechouston.org/>
- Aug 14th – Next JSC Sustainability Partnership Team Meeting
 - 3:00-4:30
 - B45/751
 - POC: Mike Ewert
- Aug 16th – JSC Flex Friday
- Aug 17th - Houston Urban Food Production Conference
 - Some of the educational trainings include Organic Certification, Beekeeping, Poultry Production, Goat Production, Integrated Pest Management, Soil Building, Fruit & Nut Production, Vegetable Production, Practical Weed Control, Efficient Irrigation, and more.
 - Held at the United Way of Great Houston
 - POC: Diana at 281-855-5614
 - <http://www.cechouston.org/>
- Aug 21st – Rice Design Alliance Civic Forums: Environmental Challenges Facing the Houston Region over the Next 25 Years – Challenges of Climate Change
 - Presented by the Rice Design Alliance, the forum will feature nationally known scientists, researchers, and public policy experts who will discuss air, water, land, and health issues.
 - 6:30 PM in the Brown Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
 - <http://ricedesignalliance.org/category/civic-forums>
- Aug 21st – H-GAC Hosts “Disaster & Debris Management Documentation”



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- 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- H-GAC Conference Room A, Second Floor.
- This training workshop will introduce best practices associated with FEMA reimbursement and focus on tools that local governments can use to capture additional eligible costs, opportunities for mitigation funding, FEMA eligibility and cost tracking recommendations. There is no cost for this event, but space is limited and registration is required.
- Register at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/931044158> .
- August 21st – JSC Green Team Meeting “How’s the Energy Competition Going?”
 - 1:00-2:00 PM
 - B20, Rm 360
 - POC: Demetrius Roberts (x34627)
- August 21st – JSC Contractor Environmental Partnership Meeting
 - 10:00-11:00 AM
 - B45, Rm 751
 - POC: Jeni Morrison (x40878)
- Aug 28th – Bay Area Community Advisory Panel hosts “Pipelines and Salt Domes”
 - 5:45PM
 - Armand Bayou Nature Center (8500 Bay Area Blvd)
 - Your RSVP by noon Friday, August 23 will help us order the right amount of food.
 - Contact facilitator Diane Sheridan at DBSheridan@aol.com or 281-326-5253 with RSVPs or questions
- Aug 28th – Rice Design Alliance Civic Forums: Environmental Challenges Facing the Houston Region over the Next 25 Years – Challenges of Competing Land Uses, Environmental Justice, and Public Health
 - Presented by the Rice Design Alliance, the forum will feature nationally known scientists, researchers, and public policy experts who will discuss air, water, land, and health issues.
 - 6:30 PM in the Brown Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
 - <http://ricedesignalliance.org/category/civic-forums>
- Aug 30th – JSC Flex Friday



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Sneak Peek at Upcoming Events

- Sept 4th – USGBC Recycling Unconference: “Construction & Demolition”
 - These events will be interactive and are designed to bring together those who are facing challenges in their recycling efforts and those who can help overcome those challenges.
 - For more information, e-mail recycling@usgbctexasgulfcoast.org.
- Sept 16th – 18th – Compost Camp
 - Texas Disposal Systems in Buda, Texas
 - The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling Compost Advisory Council's Compost Camp. More information available at www.recyclingstar.org.
- September 24-25th - SSPEED Center Conference: Hurricane Ike 5 Years Later
 - Top experts in the field will discuss hurricane protection for Houston, Hurricane Sandy risk and response, and post Hurricane Katrina activities. Keynote speakers include Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Chairman Janiece Longoria of the Port of Houston Authority, Bill Read, former director of the National Hurricane Center and Professor Ning Lin from Princeton University who specializes in climate change and severe weather events. The conference will highlight the SSPEED Center’s proposed Centennial Gate, designed to protect the Houston Ship Channel. This session will include a description of the gate, surge modeling, legal issues, finance strategies, land use and ship channel environmental risk and tank stability. The conference will address emerging federal thinking on non-structural alternatives and the SSPEED Center’s formation of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area and creation of the ecosystem services exchange.
 - Held at the Rice University BioScience Research Collaborative (BRC).
 - <https://signup.rice.edu/>
- Oct 6th – The Progressive Forum: Lester Brown, Founder of the Earth Policy Institute
 - 7:30PM
 - Wortham Center, Cullen Theater
 - <http://www.progressiveforumhouston.org/event/lester-brown>
- Oct 8th & 9th – Shell Center for Sustainability Town Hall Meeting
 - The Shell Center for Sustainability is convening the Sustainable Houston Town Hall Meeting to bring together a large coalition of neighborhood leaders committed to a more sustainable Houston. We encourage participation by community leaders, sustainability experts, private sector partners, and interested citizens. Sessions are open to all attendees. Our objective is to provide an opportunity for discussion and debate. It is also an opportunity to ensure that all neighborhoods in the city share their specific needs and visions. At the heart of the meeting is the vision to develop



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Houston into a more livable, resilient, efficient, equitable and prosperous city. The meeting will be held on the Rice University campus. The agenda includes a kick-off talk and reception with Jason Roberts (TBC), and Rob Hopkins, on Tuesday evening; a presentation of the Houston Sustainability Indicators (HSI) Study, a panel of experts, and more on Wednesday, October 8th and 9th.

- There is no cost to attend. More information on the schedule, our co-hosts and participants will be available soon at <http://shellcenter.rice.edu>
- Oct 19th – Houston's Energy Day Festival
 - Hermann Square in downtown Houston, across from City Hall.
 - This day-long festival is a family-friendly event celebrating the importance of energy to our daily lives. Visitors can enjoy exhibits, live music, food and contests.
 - More information is available at <http://energydayfestival.org/about/energy-day/>.



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How can I be more sustainable?

Calculate your ecological footprint! How many Earth's does it take to sustain your lifestyle if everyone in the world lived like you?

<http://myfootprint.org/>

Ten Ways to Go Green and Save Green

http://www.worldwatch.org/resources/go_green_save_green

Hot tips for a cool summer! Save energy in summer and fight climate change. Get tips to reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm>

Landscaping makes WaterSense! Homeowners or businesses can use WaterSense-labeled controllers for landscape watering. Landscaping water controllers with the WaterSense label meet criteria for efficiency and performance.

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/products/controltech.html>

EPA Summer Tools and Tips:

- We had an Ozone Action Day yesterday, and we have one today as well. For tips on how to help reduce impacts during Ozone Action Days, here's the EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3artd/airquality/actdays.htm>. Also, people can track current air conditions across the country at the EPA's [AirNow](#) website. There's even an iPhone and Android app that will send alerts to your phone on action days. It has a list of areas with Ozone Action Days for the current day and predictions for tomorrow's designated Ozone Action Days.
- EPA's **Don't-top-off! Guidance:** Refuel your vehicle in the early morning or evening. <http://epa.gov/donttopoff/>.
- **Get energy savings!** Change your air filters. Tune up your HVAC. Find out more what you can do and to help reduce emissions. <http://energystar.gov/heatcool>
- **Extreme heat.** Prepare for reduced air quality, increased energy use. <http://epa.gov/naturaldisasters/extremeheat.html>
- **MORE EPA summer tips:** <http://epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm>
- **EPA Green Apps Web Site:** Find phone friendly tips and tools on the EPA's database of green apps. <http://epa.gov/mygreenapps/>.



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Additional Links

Armand Bayou Nature Center Receives 50th Solar Energy Donation from Green Mountain Energy™ Sun Club™ (PR Web, 7/31/2013) Green Mountain Energy™ Sun Club™ has dedicated its 50th solar energy system to Houston area non-profit nature preserve, Armand Bayou Nature Center. The nature preserve received a donation that added three solar arrays to its campus. The rooftop installations on its boat house, admissions pavilion and education building now use renewable energy to help power its educational tours and exhibits. Armand Bayou Nature Center now hosts 29 solar panels on its grounds, powering the center's various educational programs with 8,500 kilowatt-hours of pollution-free energy and avoiding about 9,900 pounds of CO2 each year. That's enough CO2 to fill 802,500 hard hats! An additional solar installation on the Nature Center's boat house will charge the electric pontoon boat, the "Bayou Ranger," used for weekend bayou tours, so visitors can explore the wetlands with the power of the sun.

<http://www.prweb.com/>

How do I monitor the energy usage in my JSC building?

<http://ebiem:8080/idashboards/?guestuser=guest>

City of Houston's Green Office Challenge Calendar of events:

<http://www.houstongoc.org/calendar/2012-08>

USGBC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Releases "Is Houston Solar Ready?"

Publication: Available for free [download](#).

Sign up for the Citizen's Environmental Coalition Newsletter

<http://www.cechouston.org/cec-programs/houston-environmental-news-update/>

City of Houston's Official Green Site

<http://www.greenhoustontx.gov/index.html>

Sustainable Houston

<http://www.sustainablehouston.org/index.html>

US Green Building Council Houston

<http://www.usgbc-houston.org/>